

## GIBBS SAYS FRENCH WANT NO MORE WAR DESPITE JINGO TALK

Militaristic Press and Politicians Seen as Froth on Wave.

### REVENGE IDEA IS DYING

Many Distrust Britain, Thinking She Will Side With Germany.

### REALISTIC VIEWS HELD

Writer Fears French-German Hatred, if Not Curbed, May Cause New War.

By SIR PHILIP GIBBS.  
Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
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It is one of the fictions of life that the Government of a country is always represented by newspaper men and politicians, as though it were the country itself, and, worse still, half a dozen or a dozen leading articles in prominent journals are quoted all over the world as the voice of the people. France, we say, is militaristic. Then all the sound and fury of French journalism is taken at its face value, as though the French people themselves were ready to break with England because of indiscreet or vexatious words spoken by Mr. Lloyd George. All that is very misleading, as I have found once again after a few days in France.

It is my habit of mind to get as far as possible below the surface of these abstractions of politics and policy to the real mind of the man in the street or the woman in the home. Using that method in France just now results in conclusions very different from those given out to the world by many political writers.

I find, for instance, that the average Frenchman I meet is by no means bellicose. On the contrary, his one desperate desire is for assured peace, and so far he has not this assurance in his soul. Also he is revolting in mind from all the fanciful promises and the sentimental eloquence of political orators, and is

demanding what he calls a policy of realism.

#### Peace Treaty Dreams Fade.

I find that he is profoundly disillusioned with the authors of the peace treaty and their successors. It was dinned into his ears that after the victory France would be safeguarded forever against a renewal of the German menace and would be paid back for the costs of the war. Neither of these things has happened.

The League of Nations, which was to be the guarantee of world peace, aroused his scepticism and irony. Now, with America's refusal to join it, he shrugs his shoulders and says, "Didn't I say so!" His real hope was in a close alliance with America and England, who would guarantee France against future attack, but that has failed him also.

As far as repayment of the damage of the war, he knows now that even if Germany pays according to her present pledges, France will still be burdened by enormous debts, and meanwhile her devastated districts, still close to Paris as an open, unhealed wound—the Red Zone, they call it—a constant reminder that reconstruction is hardly begun.

After two years of impractical and unreal hope the average Frenchman is now facing reality, and that is moderating his views in many ways. "England and America are trading with Germany," he says. "They are realists. We are fools if we refuse to buy what they can sell cheap to us."

After the armistice, for instance, France was in desperate need of paper for school books. The price of paper had soared to fantastic heights. Germany offered a big supply of it at the same rate as in 1913. When the French Minister was approached he grew red in the face, uttered strange noises in his throat and condemned the idea of buying paper from Germany as treason to the dead. It was England that bought this paper, and later France bought it from England at a much increased price.

#### Calls It Curse of France.

"That," said the Frenchman who told me this story, "is typical of government by passion. It has been our curse."

It is the same sentiment which for two years refused the German offer to restore the devastated districts by German labor and erect houses for the homeless population.

"What," cried the voice of passion, "will they take our work from us?"

French politicians trembled with indignation at the idea. But the Mayors and the inhabitants of Verdun and other places of ruin have lately brought reason and reality into play, and the French Govern-

ment has yielded to their pressure.

"We want houses, not promises," said one of these inhabitants from the Red Zone. "We want wood and stone, not sentiment and oratory. The Germans offer us 25,000 well built wooden houses, and if they are refused, M. Briand, our homeless families will no longer be patient with the politicians."

The French Prime Minister, who is himself a realist, although he has to be careful in realism, has accepted the proposal, subject to amendment in detail.

It is in view of the new attitude of mind in getting away from passion to reality that the French labor party, once most violent against the use of German labor for reconstruction in France, has withdrawn its opposition. I was talking yesterday with the leader of French labor, M. Leon Blum, in the Chamber of Deputies, where he has united two groups of moderate Socialists. His views coincide very much with all moderate opinion in France, which is stronger than it appears from the French press.

#### Blum Criticizes Briand.

"M. Briand, it is said, when he indulges in passionate oratory to please the chauvinists, braves public opinion and does not represent it," he said. "If you speak to the small clerk or the peasant you will not find that either of them desires occupation of the Ruhr for vengeance's sake or wishes French troops to intervene in Upper Silesia. The French working people want their young men on their farms—not in the occupied territories. They have no love for Germany, and they demand just payment, but they want a pact of peace with the German democracy. They hope that if Germany shows an honest effort to pay the indemnities and to establish a real republican policy, destructive of junker reaction, there is no reason why peace should not prevail in Europe."

M. Blum's own opinion is that passion is gradually dying out and that more moderate, reasonable and realistic views are at work.

"I see the first glimmer of light ahead," he said. "I believe that before the year has passed Germany will be admitted to the League of Nations and will cooperate in the reconstruction of Europe. I believe the mass of people in all countries will demobilize and get to work to revive trade in a good, progressive spirit. They are sick and tired of all this political passion. What they want is a decrease in the cost of living and relief from crushing taxes."

It is probable that M. Blum is rather too optimistic in this belief, but I have no doubt that many French people, especially of the working classes, are beginning to reason in the way he indicates. On the other hand, they are still very susceptible to passionate oratory and to pride in their military genius.

It is significant that young men called to the colors in the 1919 class for occupation of the Ruhr Valley were very bellicose and thoroughly

disappointed that it did not happen. A sudden wave of passion passed over France from which they are now sobering down.

I find among some people I meet a sense of gloom about the future of France, chiefly due to the thought that they may be estranged from England, which they believe is drawing closer to Germany and arranging commercial agreements with their old enemy. That belief hurts them horribly and makes them distrustful and suspicious of England. They lean more upon their Polish alliance as their best safeguard against the time when Germany may want a war of revenge, and yet many Frenchmen admit privately that Poland is not a strong or stable ally.

Meanwhile they see their population decreasing, while Germany's birth rate is high, and they know their national debt cannot be repaid for many generations.

I am bound to say that I see no great hope for France in the future unless there is a complete change of international philosophy in Europe by the closing up of the democracies in all countries. A continued policy of hatred between Germany and France would inevitably lead to a new conflict in a generation or two, or much less than that, and another victory like the last would destroy France.

Given peace, however, and a gradual repayment of the war costs, France will prosper. Even now her industrial recovery is remarkable. Although her national debt is enormous—namely, three hundred milliards of francs—the individual man and woman are doing well. The French peasants are almost rich. Many small farmers have made little fortunes.

The costs of living are high, but the wages of labor are high also, and there is no poverty visible. Everywhere in France are numbers of small capitalists owning their own shops, factories, fields and businesses, so that the wealth is not concentrated in a few hands but is widely distributed. That is a cure against revolution and is a source of national strength.

The curse of France, according to one distinguished Frenchman I have met, is summed up in their word "panache." That is hardly to be translated. Literally it means a "plume," but it synchronizes love of glory, fuel

of flag and beat of drum. What dominates their thoughts is, first, the economic future of France—how to wipe out that monstrous debt—and national security against a German war of revenge. England seems to them abominably pro-German. Nothing will get it out of their heads that Mr. Lloyd George is in the hands of international financiers who are playing the German game. They do not realize or believe that the English policy is governed by the same motive as their own, namely, peace, but that whereas they believe no peace is possible should Germany regain her strength the British believe no peace is possible unless Germany has hope of prosperity and fair dealing after the payment of her pledges, and that is the wide difference of policy that will be difficult to bridge.

#### Points Out Big Danger.

I am inclined to think that it will grow wider without such a bridge unless moderate opinion in both countries rises above the reactionaries and the agitators and reaffirms the entente cordiale on the open basis of self-interest as well as sentiment. It is absolutely necessary for present and future friendship between England and France that Mr. Lloyd George's reference to new friends and old friends, hinting plainly at German friendship and French isolation, should be wiped out by generous and overwhelming proof of affection and loyalty by the British people. Otherwise France might be confirmed in the worst suspicions of her journalists and take steps accordingly to act alone while she has the power.

That would not be good for England or for the peace of Europe. It would not be good for France, either. But her motto now is safety first whatever happens afterward, and without England her immediate safety might be to take what she can get while the chance is hers.

The situation is difficult and dangerous, but I believe England will prove her friendship to France and prevent a break which would be tragic to both peoples and the hopes of a European settlement. For by reasons of geography and arithmetic, to say nothing of honor and sentiment, France and Great Britain must stand together or fall separately.

## ENGINEERS OPENING MT. EVEREST TRAIL

Three Parties Now Working Way Through Maze to Base of Highest Peak.

### SEEK ROUTE TO THE TOP

British Expedition Will Try to Scale Mountain in Himalayas This Summer.

DARJEELING, Bengal, June 4.—Somewhere in the tangled maze of the southern Himalayan Mountains three parties of British engineers are working their way through unexplored gorges and passes toward the base of Mount Everest. They are blazing the way for the expedition that will later this summer attempt to scale the granite walls of Everest and conquer the highest mountain peak on the globe.

The first party to leave here was commanded by Major Morshead, which proceeded up the Teesta Valley and over what is known as the Kangra route. The other two units, commanded by Col. Bury, intend to meet the Morshead party at Khamba Jong, and then the combined expedition will strike westward toward the village of Tengri Jong, which is about thirty miles north of the Everest group.

A permanent base will be selected near that village, and from it will start the party which will try to reach the summit of the dominating peak of the range.

Before the actual work of scaling the stupendous slopes of Everest can begin, however, engineers must carefully survey all approaches to the mountain and try to find the most practicable route to the top. This reconnaissance work is the chief task assigned the men now working their way into the heart of the mountains.



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Companions to smart sweaters: of white, blazer striped or open checked flannel, cricket cloth or silk crepe de chine.

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White as June daisy fields or varicolored as summer gardens: with garlands, bead treatments, quills or grosgrain ribbons.

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The footnote to every summer costume: sports, afternoon or evening models in white canvas, buckskin or kidskin.

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Soft, fluttering picot edged drapery that sways to the rhythm of music, in white, flesh, black, gray, tangerine, turquoise, cafe au lait, periwinkle or pansy with "chou" and girdle of satin ribbon.

65.00

Other summer dance frocks 55.00 to 195.00

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In platinum, pewter gray, white or black, softened with squirrel, caracul or Mongolian fur, others gracefully draped or combined with jetted net. Also chiffon evening wraps in the hues of evening gowns, with squirrel collars.

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### Girls' Wash Dresses—

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In Scotch ginghams, imported linens and silk. Sizes 14 to 18 years.

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\$19.50 and \$27.50

### Young Ladies' Skirts—

Sport skirts of gabardine, Russian cord and flannel. Formerly up to \$12.

Sale Prices  
\$4.75 and \$7.50

### Young Ladies' Tailored Blouses—

Dimity, madras and washable silk. Formerly up to \$16.

Sale Prices  
\$4.75 and \$7.50

### Boys' Wash Suits—

Jumper sailor suits, beach suits and sailor shirt suits of imported galatea, poplin and linen.

Formerly up to \$12.

Sale Prices  
\$3.75, \$4.75, \$6.75

### Boys' Norfolk Suits—

Standard De Pinna models of regulation khaki and linen crash. Sizes 7 to 14 years.

Formerly up to \$13.50.

Sale Price  
\$9.75

### Boys' Knickerbockers—

Of khaki and white duck. Sizes 7 to 14 years.

Formerly \$4.

Sale Price  
\$2.75

### Boys' Blouses—

Percale and woven madras. Sizes 8 to 14 years.

Formerly \$2.25.

Sale Price  
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### Girls' and Young Ladies' Hats—

Tailored and trimmed hats. Formerly up to \$30.

Sale Prices  
\$3.75 and \$7.50

### Boys' Shirts—

Woven madras. Sizes 12 to 15½.

Formerly \$3.50.

Sale Price  
\$2.45

### Boys' Bath Robes—

Formerly \$9.50.

Sale Price  
\$6.45

### Boys' Pajamas—

Formerly \$3.50.

Sale Price  
\$2.45

### Boys' Pajamettes—

Formerly \$3.75.

Sale Price  
\$2.45

### Boys' Hats—

Milan straw hats for boys up to 9 years.

Formerly up to \$9.

Sale Price  
\$3.75 and \$4.75

Panama and straw hats for boys up to 17 years.

Formerly up to \$12.

Sale Prices  
\$3.75 and \$6.75

Boys' Golf Caps—

Formerly up to \$4.

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\$1.75 and \$2.75

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